GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1655
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
FIRING ON BORDER
AMAR ROY PRADHAN;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been heavy exchange of fire between the Indian and Pakistani troops on international border and LOC during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) the number of soldiers who lost their lives during the said period and the nature of other loss India has suffered as a result thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the tension on international border and LOC?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Exchange of small arms, artillery and mortar firing from across LOC is a regular feature, though the intensity of firing varies depending upon the prevailing situation in various sectors.

(c) Thirty Three Army personnel were killed during 1.7.2002 to 20.2.2003. As per the information available for the period from 1st July 2002 to 31st January 2003, the firing in J&K has caused death of 17 civilians, 47 cattles and damages to 93 buildings.

(d) Government of India exercises restraint while taking appropriate measures to ensure security and prevent infiltration from across the International Border and Line of Control.